



City of Arts & Innovation

# News Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

May 14, 2015

**RIVERSIDE A HOST CITY FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS WORLD GAMES 2015**

*Only host city to house athletes at a facility that serves a special needs population*

**RIVERSIDE, Calif.** – The City of Riverside will serve as a host city for a delegation of Special Olympics athletes as part of the 2015 World Games in Los Angeles July 25-Aug. 2. An official announcement is scheduled for 2 p.m. Tuesday (5/19), including information about which European country will be sending athletes to Riverside.

About 7,000 participants in the World Games from 177 countries will compete in more than 250 sports, including aquatics, gymnastics, kayaking, basketball and soccer. With leadership provided by the Riverside Sports Commission, Riverside will hold a four-day, pre-games celebration hailing athletes from a European country, which will be revealed at the City's Host Town Announcement.

The Host Town Announcement is scheduled for Tuesday, May 19, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. The announcement will take place at Riverside City Hall, located at 3900 Main Street in Riverside. Members of the media and public are invited to participate in the celebration.

During the announcement, former Special Olympics Athlete and Silver Medalist Anthony Briones will speak about his experience as a Special Olympics Athlete.

“We are honored to host the Special Olympics delegation this summer. We look forward to welcoming the athletes and to introducing them to Riverside's outstanding sporting venues and cultural activities,” said William R. “Rusty” Bailey, Mayor of Riverside.

Athletes will stay at the California School for the Deaf, Riverside (CSDR), making Riverside the only city to host athletes at a facility that serves a special needs population. Founded in 1953, the California School for the Deaf serves deaf and hard-of-hearing students between the ages of 3 and 21. When they are not studying in Riverside, CSDR students reside in 11 counties across Southern California.

Host towns provide accommodations, meals, activities and local transportation for athletes and their sponsors. The Riverside Sports Commission is seeking sponsors and volunteers to support this monumental occasion.

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